

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

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EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, IZ

SUBJ: IRAQ AT THE LOS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: THE PRIMARY IRAQI INTEREST AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IS TO ASSURE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE PASSAGE. WHILE ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN A PUBLIC POSTURE ACCEPTABLE TO FRIENDS AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IRAQ WILL TRADE SUPPORT ON OTHER LOS ISSUES FOR ASSISTANCE IN MORE CRUCIAL FORS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE GOI PRIMARILY REGARDS THE LOS CONFERENCE AS ONE OF THE MEANS BY WHICH THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE PASSAGE THROUGH THE PERSIAN GULF, THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ AND THE INDIAN OCEAN CAN BE GUARANTEED. IRAQ'S DECISION TO MEND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE GULF STATES, PROPOSALS FOR A COLLECTIVE DECLARATION BY THE GULF LITTORAL STATES SUPPORTING THE RIGHT OF FREE PASSAGE, AND THE ADVOCAC

Y

OF A "ZONE OF PEACE" IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REFLECT IRAQ'S CONCERN

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TO PROTECT ITS TRADE. PRESIDENT BAKR, IN HIS SPEECH MARKING THE

JULY BAATH PARTY REVOLUTIONS, REEMPHASIZED IRAQI INTEREST IN FREE PASSAGE THROUGH THE GULF, WHEN HE REMARKED THAT "THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRIES AROUND THE GULF AND ALSO LEGITIMATE INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS...REQUIRE THE STRENGTHENING OF REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION BASED ON SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND CONVENTIONS THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF A COLLECTIVE DECLARATION BY ALL THE LITTORAL STATES OVERLOOKING THE GULF TO THE EFFECT THAT NAVIGATION IN THE GULF MUST BE FREE FOR ALL THE LITTORAL STATES AND FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL PARTIES."

2. ALTHOUGH A MEMBER OF THE IRAQI DELEGATION PG THE LOS, ABDUL HAMIM A.H. JAWAD, PRIVATELY INDICATED TO USINT OFF THAT THE GOI MIGHT MODIFY ITS POSITION ON OTHER LOS QUESTIONS, AS A COROLLARY TO THE RIGHT OF FREE PASSAGE IRAQ IS, HOWEVER, OPPOSED TO THE TWO HUNDRED MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. SINCE APPARENTLY IRAQ WOULD PREFER NOT TO ARGUE ITS CASE IN TERMS OF NATIONAL SELF-INTERESTS, GOIARS CONVOLUTED EXPLANATIONS OF IRAQ'S POSITION ARE VAGUELY COUCHED IN TERMS OF OPPOSITION TO IMPERIALISM AND THE PROTECTION OF LDCS. JAWAD MIGHT BE UNABLE TO EXPLOIT THE RESOURCES IN THEIR ECONOMIC ZONES, OPPOSITION TO THE ECONOMIC ZONE CONCEPT IS IN THE LDCS' INTERESTS. THE OPPOSITION TO IMPERIALISM, AS EXPRESSED IN THE LOCAL PRESS, HAS FOCUSED ON THE "ARBITRARY ACTS" AND "INSATIABLE GREED" OF THE UNITED STATES AS EXEMPLIFIED IN THE EXTENSION OF US FISHING RIGHTS AND THE SECRETARY'S "THREAT" UNILATERALLY TO EXTRACT MINERALS FROM THE SEABED.

3. COMMENT: AS A COUNTRY WITH A SHORT COASTLINE AT THE UPPER END OF A GULF, IRAQ'S POSITION ON LOS QUESTIONS REFLECTS ITS GEOGRAPHIC DISADVANTAGES RATHER THAN ANY OVERWHELMING CONCERN FOR INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES OR SOLIDARITY WITH THE DEVELOPING NATIONS. IRAQ WILL ATTEMPT TO DEFLECT ANY AGREEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE USED TO RESTRICT THE TRANSIT OF GOODS THROUGH THE GULF, WHETHER THIS TAKES THE FORM OF SECURITY PACTS, LIMITATIONS ON FREE PASSAGE, OR ECONOMIC ZONES IN WHICH CURRENTLY MERELY ECONOMIC "NATIONAL RIGHTS" MIGHT SOMEDAY EVOLVE INTO POLITICAL/MILITARY CLAIMS. IF THE QUESTION DOES NOT TOUCH ON THE "RIGHTS" OF FREE PASSAGE, IRAQ WILL, ACCORDING TO JAWAD, ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN A POSTURE PUBLICLY ACCEPTABLE TO HER FRIENDS AMONG THE NON-ALIGNED AND TRADE HER SUPPORT FOR ASSISTANCE IN MORE CRUCIAL FORA.

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